

# IN THE BEGINNING



**Published Quarterly By  
Woodson County Historical Society  
Yates Center, Kansas  
Vol. 20 - No. 78**

## IN THE BEGINNING

Vol. 20-No. 78

April, 1987

Lester A. Harding, Editor

### Editor's Notes —

In the January issue we had a bright idea of adding more pages to each quarterly to get all of the material that we might accumulate during this year.

But we failed to realize how much more paper that would take in a years time. Each issue with eight pages more in each of 500 little books = 4,000 pages for each of the four issues.

We did not make arrangements to collect any more money for the year so we will go back to the 24 pages like we always had.

\* \* \* \* \*

This picture was taken by the writer quite a few years ago when we were living on our farm, eleven miles northwest of Yates Center. These hounds belonged to Merton Mulsow who was our neighbor to the northeast. The hounds had found this narrow-striped skunk out in broad daylight. We don't know how we got that double exposure. At the left of the picture only one hound seemed to want to even bark at the skunk. The other two had already made contact. The double exposure shows the skunk in his get away.

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Woodson County Historical Society

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\$4.00 per year

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WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Organized March, 1965

The regular bi-monthly meeting of the Woodson County Historical Society was held at the 107 Inn, for a dinner meeting. There were 62 present for the 6:30 dinner and program. Rev. Thompson and wife and young daughter of the Nazarene church in Yates Center gave the program. They sang several numbers and a colored slide presentation that was very good.

It was also time for the election of officers. Gary Culbertson gave the report of the nominating committee as follows. Pres. Kenneth Stockebrand, Vice Pres. Fay Hibbard, Sec. Elaine Horsch, Treas. Gladys Starr, Director Charles Lewis. These officers were all re-elected except Charles Lewis.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

## IN MEMORIAN

Jeanette Beine	74	November 26, 1986
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Jeanette was born, grew up and lived most of her life in Yates Center. She and her husband Walter Beine were both Charter Members of the Woodson Co. Historical Society.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Cloy Taulbee	87	December 5, 1986
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Mr. Taulbee lived part of his life in the Big and Little Sandy communities and his memories of that part of the county was very real to him.

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The membership of the Woodson County Historical Society seems to hold steady with paid up memberships.

We have lost quite a few members since the Society was organized, but new ones are added to make up for the lost ones.

There were 96 Charter Members and there have been at least 46 of these passed away. There are several others confined to Nursing Homes.

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JOIN AND SUPPORT THE  
WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Yates Center, Kansas

**Life Membership \$25.00      Regular Membership \$2.00 yearly**

# YATES CENTER HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES — 1909 to 1919.

<b>1909</b>		Mary Patterson - Paris	
Neva Alice Aronhlt		Clement Reed	
Harry Ashley		George Reep	
Minnie M. Boursfeld		Ida Robson - Cox	
Clara Fuhlhage - Lauber		Olive Shedd - Piper	
Clara Halsey Scott		Jean Singleton - Shotts	
Jesse C. McCormick		Mary Smith - Henson	
Marie Nanninga - Weide		Louise E. Stockebrand	
Simon Nanninga		Glenn Stotts	
Bertha Roger - Hutchinson		Dora Wagner - Willaby	
Lola Smith - Rose		Arthur Whittaker	25
Francis Shockley		<b>1912</b>	
Ina Watts - Rhea		Leta Brady - Fister	
Juanita Weide Nanninga	13	Paul A. Cannady	
<b>1910</b>		Warren Diver	
Viva Augustine - Robson		Arthur McCormick	
Loula Dodd Cooper		Hazel McCormick - Green	
Elma Davidson - Steinforth		Leonard McCormick	
Frank Elliot		Ernest Gowan	
Lorin Fowler		Leah Phillips - Scott	
Cryster Kelley Bergier		Katherine Ryan	
Julia Kesterson Fuhlhage		Rudolph Rodewald	
Ruth Landis - Elliot		Gettie Smith - Mathews	
Irma Lewis - Fisher		Clarrisa Stephenson	
Laura Lind		Lucia Tipton - Criswell	
Mildred Mason - Gunnells		Mae Trueblood	
Gussie Schkichting		Minnie Weide - Kalb	15
George Stephenson		<b>1913</b>	
Charles Shedd		William Ernest Aronholt	
Pearl Thoroughman	15	Jessie Ashley	
<b>1911</b>		Olive Boursfeld - Otto	
Charles Archibald		Esther Carr - Benton	
Ruth Augustine		Paul Carroll	
Agnes Campbell - Harian		Cecile Davidson	
Wallace Elliot		Pearl Davidson - Vannice	
Eldan Gepharte		Earl Guy	
Alice Hogueland - Lamb		Bessie Hughes	
Esther Johnson - Gulley		Edna Johnson	
Zella Jones		Doris Jones	
Erratt Lamb		Keith Kinyon	
Ray Lawton		William Patterson	
Lee Mason		Carl Rodewald	
Lois Muffley - Barnett		Sophia Rodewald	
Myrtle McCormick		Veda Singleton	
Everett Parsons		Edna Stines	
		Albert Wachtman	
		Alice Weide - Stockebrand	19

## 1914

Alma Baurfeld - Seright  
 Walter Beabway  
 Kathryn Bideau  
 Ruth Bowman  
 Marie Cain  
 Charles Campbell  
 Leonard Davidson  
 Mildred Downey  
 Anna Fell - Weide - Bacon  
 Hila Graham - Whittaker

10

## 1915

Maynard Agnew  
 Marrie Augustine - Sisson  
 Fred Bayer  
 Herbert Culver  
 Calvin Davidson  
 Millie Derby  
 Neva Dexter - Stoll  
 Avice Eagle - Ireland  
 Alma Evans  
 Earl Harrod  
 Minnie Hefner - Sellers  
 Earle Hiestandt  
 Lydia Holcomb - Reynolds  
 Lola Jarrett - Stoddard  
 Clara Keske  
 Esther Leonard  
 Agnes Mahoney  
 Fannie McCormick - Miller  
 Vera McCormick - Irwin  
 Lizzie McDaniels - Hilgenberg  
 Hallie Newton  
 Marie Pyke  
 Lucille Reynolds  
 Osie Rogers  
 Ruth Scheachs  
 George Sisson  
 Clarence Stockebrand  
 Elmer Stockebrand  
 Faith Trowbridge  
 Leo Vance  
 Enoch Weide  
 Sarah Weide - Agnew  
 Archedeane Whittaker - Gunnells  
 Geneva Whittaker - Morgan  
 Elsie Wright - Whipple

35

## 1916

Boyd Agnew  
 Harry M. Barner  
 Theodore Bayer  
 Ray Bell  
 Roy Bell  
 Lois Carter - Lynn  
 Hester Davidson  
 Alfreda Fell - Burke  
 Esther Fuhlhage - Watts  
 Dessie Gillespie - Lauber  
 Mary Herder  
 Ben Heritage  
 Elsie Heritage - Carlson  
 Clara Horney - Jarrett  
 Gertrude Huff - Gibbs  
 Ione Mason  
 Helen McCormick  
 Phebe McDaniel  
 Laura McLaughlin - Gillette  
 Josie Moerer  
 Florence Parish - Bacon  
 Donald Patterson  
 Emerson Reynolds  
 Hilda Steiner - Eisenbart  
 Esther Stockebrand - Baurfeld  
 Flora Wagner - Lindeman  
 Mary Wagner - Hearn  
 Alvina Wrampe  
 John Wood

29

## 1917

Abel Agnew  
 Clarence Agnew  
 Wilma Alvis  
 Dorothy Barrier  
 Arthur Beanway  
 Henry Belne  
 Merrill Campbell  
 Will Carroll  
 Elsie Carter - Simpson  
 Celia Davidson  
 Clarence Dissinger  
 Thelma Hale  
 Elizebeth Harper - Clawson  
 Leo Alfred Harris  
 Mae Henson  
 Charles Wm. Herder  
 Crystal Ibberson  
 Veva Jefferies - Nettrouer  
 Frank N. Johnson  
 Marie Kay - Ross  
 Reta Jones - Campbell

# 1917 Cont.

Martha Krueger  
 Giles Harvey Lamb, Jr.  
 Thomas Lee  
 George R. Lee  
 Helen Lewis  
 Hazel Mentzer  
 Marie Murphy  
 Henrietta McCormick  
 Lyman McCormick  
 Gladys Shannon  
 Meryl Singleton  
 Hazel Sturdivan  
 Ruth Toedman  
 Harold Trusler  
 Ellen Warner  
 Esther Watts  
 Robert Watts  
 Christine West  
 Fae Woodell  
 Wm. Fay Woodward

41

## 1918

Goldie May Almond  
 Clarence Fred Augustine  
 Dorothy Bayer  
 Mary Bell  
 Roy Bell  
 Glenn Berry  
 Lula Belle Briles - Cope  
 Homer Brooks - Co.L.  
 Weir Brown  
 Anna Drain  
 Eva Iphagene Easun - Powell  
 Ella Gillespie  
 Percy Hamilton - Co.L.  
 Herbert Heritage  
 Martin E. Ireland - Co.L.  
 Albert Krueger  
 Charles Otto Lind  
 Clyta Mark  
 Grace McCormick  
 Cecile Marie Mentzer  
 Wm. Leo Mills  
 Marie Monty Mills - Beanway  
 Frances Moerer  
 Norman Moore  
 Iva Pickering - Carter  
 Errol Pingrey  
 Elsie Minnie Krueger

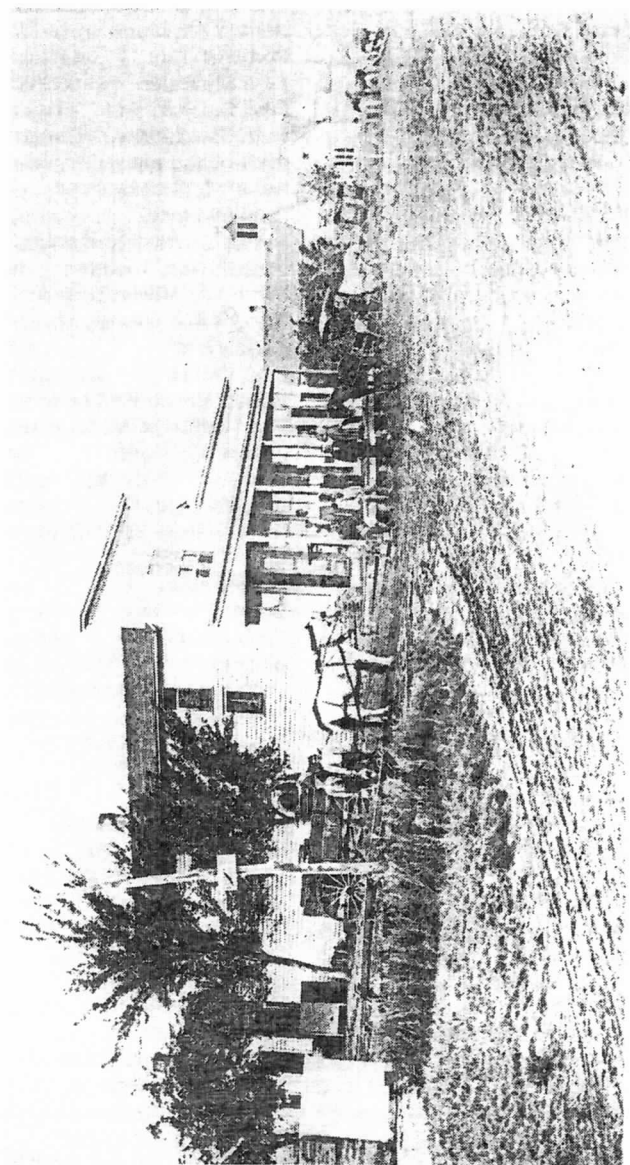
Cecil Eddman Pyke  
 Elsie Reed  
 Riley Robbins  
 Lois Shelton - Steiner  
 Donald Frederick Shenk  
 Portia Shirley  
 Fern Shrauger - Van Valkenburg  
 Fred Stockebrand  
 Ruth Stockebrand - Boursfeld  
 Ira Stockebrand  
 Robert E. Stockebrand  
 Opal Swinney  
 Jessie Lenore Trowbridge  
 Joseph Geo. Tustison  
 Flynn Van Valkenberg  
 Stella Alice Warner  
 Anna Weide  
 Fred Weide  
 Robert Brown Whittaker  
 Pearl Amanda Winterscheid  
 Jennie Woodward

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## 1919

Bernice Bray  
 Reva Byfield McCormick  
 Ethel Dumond  
 Homer Elliot  
 Bertha Fuhlhage  
 Mary Jean Gwyn  
 Mildred M. Herder  
 Sofia Alta Kesterson  
 Otis Fuhlhage  
 Ethel Beatrice Knotts  
 Paul Alson Lamb  
 Eva Mae Lee  
 Lois Thelma Patterson  
 Rosa Oliva Richard  
 Clifford Rosenberger  
 Manila L. Rousch  
 Sybil Iantha Sager  
 Leslie Seright  
 Josephine Shannon  
 Mildred Singleton  
 Evelyn A. Swinney  
 Esther Toedman - Briike  
 Mabel C. Toedman  
 Bessie Lee Walker - Heritage  
 Elsie Marie Woodside  
 Edith Emma Wrampe - White

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Crandall, Kansas — 1892

## THE TOWN OF CRANDALL, KANSAS —

The town of Crandall was first established in 1888, the year that the Missouri Pacific Railroad was built between Madison, Kansas and Butler, Missouri. The name of Crandall derived from Warren Crandall, whose ranch of several thousand acres was cut into by the railroad on the north side. Warren Crandall had come to this part of Coffey and Woodson counties in 1858. His first house was built just a short distance from the Woodson county line. The first field they plowed up crossed the county line. This first 80 acres cost him a yoke of oxen and \$20.

When the town was founded a set of scales was installed and a large hay barn was built on the south side.

Harrison W. Briles built the Crandall General Store in 1889. He established the Crandall post office on January 30, 1888. After five years Briles sold the store to Ollie Crandall, a daughter of Warren. Ollie was a shrewd dealer. Her store carried many different items. My father George Harding, went to Crandall and bought a walking plow from Ollie. The story was told that Ollie would trade merchandise for most anything. She had sheds and pens built back of the store where she kept hogs, chickens and anything the farmer wanted to trade in. Ollie kept the store for eleven years and was postmaster until the R.F.D. was started in 1908.

There were several houses built in the town, and two churches were built here. The first church built here was what was known first as the Turkey Creek United Brethern, and was founded in a log cabin along the Woodson County line. This was in 1859 and was the second oldest church of that denomination in Kansas. The other was the Christian Church. The two churches were close together on the west side of the road. The U.B. Church was moved from the Alexander farm to the townsite of Crandall, after Warren Crandall gave them a lot free and paid for the moving of the church.

At the present time there is nothing left of the town of Crandall but possibly one house.



## THE STARKEBAUM FAMILIES —

Freiderich Heinrich Starkebaum was born March 7, 1830 at Sonneborn, Germany and died October 26, 1898 at Higginsville, Missouri.

He was married to Wilhelmine Biesememeir on January 18, 1856. She was born at Hummebrak, Germany and died December 25, 1909 at Higginsville. They were the parents of a son, Heinrich Freidrich.

Heinrich Freidrich Starkebaum was born December 2, 1856 at Lippsstadt, Missouri, and died January 21, 1917 at Yates Center, Kansas. On March 14, 1884 he was married to Amelia Tebbenkamp, at Higginsville, Missouri, Amelia was born November 14, 1859 at Concordia, Missouri, and died October 17, 1949 at Yates Center, Kansas.

Heinrich and Amelia were parents of 7 children, namely:

(1) Clara Katherine, born Sept. 3, 1895 at Higginsville, died, October 4, 1950. Married Howard Thatcher, March 14, 1907. Had one daughter Gladys, who later married William A. Kesterson, Nov. 17, 1933.

(2) Arthur Freiderich, born March 14, 1887, at Higginsville. Died June 11, 1977 at Atchinson, Kansas. (The story of Arthur Starkebaum will be one by its self).

(3) Theodore August, born April 29, 1890, at Higginsville. Died May 26, 1961. Never married.

(4) Luella Mabel, better known as Lula, was born September 29, 1895 at Higginsville, Missouri. She died October 2, 1986. She never married.

(5) Mamie Eva, born May 2, 1897 at Higginsville. Married John Franklin Allen, September 8, 1919. Mamie died September 30. John was born December 22, 1899 at Yates Center, and died on April 13, 1962.

(6) Dena M. was born March 23, 1899, at Higginsville. Married Leslie W. Hader, October 21, 1923.

(7) Gilbert "Gib" Jasper, was born June 27, 1901 at Alma, Missouri and died October 11, 1983. Was married to Dorothy Lucille Brandenberry, September 2, 1939. Gib worked for quite a few years for the State Highway Department.

The pictures on the following page were the first five children of Heinrich and Amelia Starkebaum. The two youngest, Dena and Gilbert had not been born.



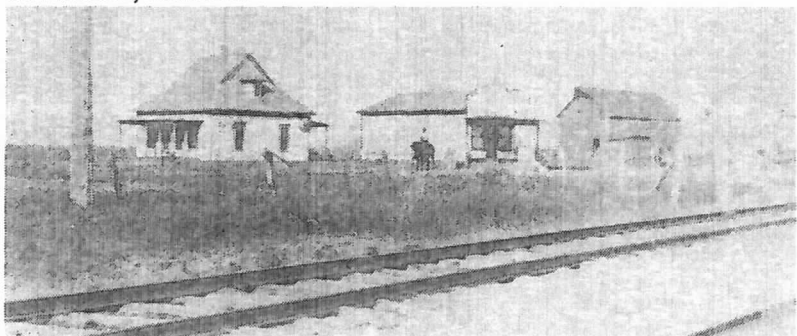
**In the back row were, Clara, Theodore and Arthur. The two small ones were Mamie and Lula.**



**Caroline and Arthur Starkebaum. Picture taken in March, 1972, on their Golden Wedding Day.**

## THE ARTHUR FREDERICK STARKEBAUM FAMILY —

Arthur F. Starkebaum was born March 14, 1887 at Higginsville, Missouri. His parents were, Heinrich Freidrich and Amelia Starkebaum. Arthur came to Woodson County from Grove County, where they had homesteaded. They came to a farm along Cherry Creek now known as the Herbert Sowers farm, seven miles east and a mile north of Yates Center. Arthur and his wife lived on the farm awhile and then bought the store at Athens, Kansas.



**Athens, Kansas as it looked about 1916-17.**

Along about that time Athens was a siding on the M-O-P Railroad. The house, both barns, store and other buildings have long been gone. For many years it was quite a hay and stock shipping point.

Athens is on the north side of the track while U.S. 54 runs along the south side of the track. The store and scales were all in the narrow strip in the very corner of the N.W. quarter of Sec. 1,25-15. A trailer house and a small garage have occupied this corner for several years.

More of a detailed account of Athens was or is in "IN THE BEGINNING" - Vol. 17-No. 67.

\* \* \* \*

Arthur Starkebaum sold the Athens store in the fall of 1917, and went to work for George and Grank Launder's sawing native lumber along Owl Creek.

About that time Arthur bought three lots at 500 South Grove in Yates Center. The house was finished in the fall of 1919. Arthur's mother, sisters and brothers moved into the house, while Arthur stayed on the farm. In 1920 Arthur ran a roller skating rink in Burlington, Kansas for two years.

On March 8, 1922, Arthur was married to Caroline May Pantle, who was the daughter of David and Lydia Klock Pantle. They lived on the same farm until 1925.

In the meantime Arthur had purchased a threshing machine. In 1918 through 1941 they threshed grain for farmers for miles around. In 1938 they lived on the Elva Morer farm. In 1934 Arthur and Artie Sellars bought the first combine that came to Woodson County, it was a steel wheeled Baldwin Gleaner pulled by a tractor.

In September, 1940 the Arthur Starkebaum family moved to Vernon, where they worked in the hay and lumber business till they retired and moved to LeRoy, Kansas in 1959.

Arthur and Caroline celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary, March 8, 1972. Caroline died December 4, 1976 and Arthur died June 11, 1977.

They were the parents of ten children, namely:

Arthur Harold, born January 24, 1923, at Burlington, Ethel Laverne, October 1, 1924; Raymond Eugene, July 2, 1926, Yates Center; Mildred Lucille, June 14, 1928; Donna Lee, October 14, 1930; Lewis Frederick, December 20, 1933; John Marvin, December 28, 1934; Lucille Marie, September 6, 1937; Ralph Edward, March 12, 1944; Kenneth Earl, August 29, 1945. Ralph and Kenneth were both born at Vernon, Harold at Burlington and the rest with a Yates Center address.

(1) Harold married Helen Beacon of Colony. They are the parents of four daughters and five sons.

(2) Ethel L., married Homer E. Peterson of Vernon. They were the parents of four children. The oldest son died in infancy. Homer and Ethel live on a farm 1½ miles east of Vernon, where they operated a dairy for many years. Their other children are a son and two daughters.

Homer spent two years in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

(3) Raymond married Alice Nadine Slate of Vernon. They are the parents of two daughters and one son. Raymond served two years in the U.S. Army during W.W. II.

(4) Mildred married George E. Pickering, of Vernon. They are the parents of two daughters and one son. They lived in Buffalo. George died February 11, 1984.

(5) Donna married Ralph Beckman of Colony. They are the parents of two sons. They live in Colony, Kansas.

(6) Lewis married Mildred Massey of Cartersville, Georgia. They are the parents of two daughters. Lewis spent two years in the U.S. Navy during W.W. II. They live in Cartersville, Georgia.

(7) John married Henrietta Pavao of Hawaii. They are the parents of three daughters and three sons. John spent 25 years in the U.S. Marines Later he married Norma Lee Batchellor. They live in Carbondale, Kansas.

(8) Lucille married Winiford Lee Brown of Blackwell, Oklahoma. They are the parents of a daughter and a son. Later she married Everett Logan of Blackwell. They had a daughter. They live at Hurst, Texas.

(9) Ralph married Linda Brooks, of Carbondale, Kansas. They are the parents of two sons. They live at Carbondale.

(10) Kenneth never married. He lives in LeRoy, Kansas.



**Arthur Starkebaum Family — Mother Caroline holding Kenneth, Father Arthur, holding Ralph. Back row, Lewis, Harold, Ethel, Mildred and Donna. Front row Lucille, Raymond and John.**

## DRY CREEK SCHOOL DISTRICT #12 —

Several years ago we wrote some about the Dry Creek School but it was some different from this story.

School district No. 12 was first organized by C. Supt. W.B. Stines in April 1866, and its original boundaries were described as follows: Beginning at the N.E. corner of Sec. 21, township 25, and Range 15, thence west 11 miles, to the northwest corner of the county, thence south 3 miles, thence east 8 miles, thence north  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, thence east 3 miles, thence north  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles to place of beginning.

On January 8, 1868, a petition was presented to County Supt. S.J. Williams, asking that said district be attached to and made a part of District No. 1. This was accordingly done and it seems to have been a preliminary step to the formation of a new district, or rather a district No. 12 out of new territory, for on April 9th, 1868, the present District 12 was formed by detaching a large amount of territory from District No. 2. The new boundaries were as follows: Beginning at the N.E. corner of Sec. 6, Twp. 24, Range 14, thence west 3 miles to the county line thence south 11 miles, thence east 3 miles, thence north 11 miles to place of beginning. It contained 33 sections of land. Later it was reduced to 11 and a half sections.

In the year the district was permanently organized, 1868, there were but 20 teachers employed in Woodson County, and the average wages paid male teachers was \$32.50 per month and the female teachers received an average of \$24.00 per month. Also in that year there were but 16 school houses in the county, 9 of which were log houses and the remaining were frame houses. Also in that year the total school population of Woodson County was 700.

In those days the chief textbooks in use were: McGuffeys Readers, Ray's Arithmetics and Pinnio's Grammars.

The first school board was composed of the following members: James Shea, Clerk; Martin Shea, Treasurer; and William James, Director.

The first school house was built of logs in 1867. The money for building was raised by private subscription in the district. Parents who had school children going to school would pay so much for each child going to the school. This log building served its purpose until sufficient money had accumulated to build a new one in 1874. The contract for building the new school house was let to Mr. Robert Daly at the price of \$789. The structure which was of stone and was known as the "Dry Creek" school house was built on its present location in section 35.



As one drives down the crooked road of the Dry Creek Valley in a picturesque setting stood a small native sandstone school house that has stood there, intact, for around a hundred years.

J.A. Lynn of Neosho Falls taught District #12, the 6 month winter terms, during the winters of 1873 and 1874. Mr. Lynn evidently taught the last term in the old log building. One reason they had so many teachers was that they had 3, 4, and six month terms. The first teacher in the stone school house was G. Wood. The teachers that taught in the log building and the stone building up to 1881 were: Miss Springer, W.B. Stines, Ed Walters, H.S. Johnson, E.B. Dennison, H.H. Wells, J.A. Lynn, G.W. Wood, J.W. Anderson, E. Wilson, L.D. Mora, F. Hanna, J.N. Stout, Guy Watts, Louise Michner, L.N.B. Anderson, Libbis Gilroy.

The rest of the teachers of District #12, are listed in the Vol. 6 - No. 24, of "IN THE BEGINNING".

As one drives around the bend where the old school house so proudly stood, the area is grown up in grass, weeds, brush and trees, as if Mother Nature is trying to hide the crumbling rock building, without any roof, windows and door sagging or gone.

At one time this was quite an Irish settlement, but now only two or three houses are in the area.

The first graduates from this school were: Lizzie Burns and Roy Singleton, members of the class of 1895. Walter Singleton was the next graduate. The year 1900 furnished two graduates, Ray Singleton and Charles Gustin.

## THE REHMER FAMILY —

Harriet Kerrison was born at Wynomhan Norfolk Shire, England on July, 1837. She came to America with her parents, who were James and Mary Kerrison, in 1857 and settled in Adair, Illinois.

She was married to Joseph Robertson, in 1863. They were the parents of four children, Mary Isabel, who died in infancy; William Ira who went to the East Indies and was never heard from again. Harriet Nellora, who married Swan Homquest, and Elizabeth (Libby).

Grandmother Harriet accompanied her two daughters, Harriet and Elizabeth to Grainfield, Gove County, Kansas in a covered wagon, where they homesteaded land. Moving to Woodson County, Kansas in 1896, coming to the Big Sandy Community, with her daughters.

Harriet Nellora proceeded her mother in death and she was cared for by her other daughter, Elizabeth (Libby). Grandmother Robertson had never ridden in a car or any kind of motorized vehicle, and one of her last wishes was that she be taken to the cemetery in a wagon. One of the neighbors, Warren Swilley, with his team and spring wagon took her to the Big Sandy Cemetery for her last ride. She lived about a mile west of the Big Sandy Cemetery.



**Grandmother Harriet Kerison Robertson.**



Elizabeth (Libby), was born July 17, 1869, at Table Grove, Illinois. On December, 1891, she was married to Charles Rehmer at Grainfield, Kansas. They had one son, Royal G. Rehmer. Sometime later Charles and Libby were divorced. Then sometime later Libby was married to Singleton Pendlay. After the death of Grandmother Robertson Libby stayed on the farm by herself, until later years when she went to live with her son, Royal, and after his death with her grandson, Kenneth, where she was living at the time of her death. She also was buried in Big Sandy Cemetery.

Royal G. Rehmer was born at Grennell, Kansas, October 13, 1892, and moved with his parents to the Big Sandy Community as a small boy.

He attended the Big Sandy School and the Fredonia Business College. He taught school in Wilson County for two years.

He was married to Nellie Daniel, and later divorced. He served in World War #1, spending a year in France, with the Co.C, 350 Infantry, 88 Div. He was a member of the First Christian Church in the Big Sandy Community.

On June 9th, 1918, Royal was married to Minnie Houchin of Fredonia, Kansas. They were the parents of four children, Kenneth James, Geraldine, Alma Jeanne and Harriet.

Royal was very active in the community of which the family lived. He farmed and served on the school board. In 1938 he went into politics and ran for the office of County Clerk of Woodson County. He held this office for eight years.

He was active in the Masonic Lodge, American Legion and the V.F.W. He served as Commander of the American Legion and V.F.W. for several years, as well as Adjutant of the Legion for several years.

Royal Rehmer died on October 12, 1953, one day before his 61st birthday. His wife Minnie M. was a daughter of James H. and Cora Houchin and was born January 8, 1898 at Grenola, Kansas. She passed away at Iola on November 27, 1973, at age of 75 years. After the family moved to Yates Center Minnie was very active in the Christian Church and Legion Auxillary.



**Royal Rehmer and wife Minnie**

Kenneth James Rehmer was born May 19th, 1920, in Wichita, Kansas, and moved with his parents to the Big Sandy Community at an early age. He grew up in that community and attended the Big Sandy School and the Yates Center High School.

During World War II, Kenneth enlisted and spent 3 years and 8 months in the U.S. Army in Canada and Alaska on the Alcan Highway. Then to the European Theatre landing in France on D-Day.

During that time he was married to Miss Melba Swilley, on February 24, 1943. After returning from the service he farmed for several years. Worked on the railroad and oil fields, and then on the Woodson County Road and Bridge.

In 1954 he was elected to the office of County Clerk of Woodson County, a position that his father held before him. He held this office until August 1975, when he resigned to take a position with the Lawrence National Bank, in Lawrence, Kansas. He held this position until August, 1975, serving as vice president of the Commercial Loan Department. He then moved back to Yates Center where he was again employed as a Motor grader operator for the Woodson County Road and Bridge Dept., until retirement on January 1, 1985.

Kenneth and Melba had four children, one son, Jamie Dean, who died in infancy. Linda Lou, James Michael, and Julie Ann.

Geraldine Rehmer, born in the Big Sandy Community, October 16, 1921, attended the Big Sandy and Liberal Hill schools. She attended the Yates Center High School and graduated with the class of 1939. She worked as a deputy County Clerk for her father from 1939 till 1942. On December 10, 1943, Geraldine was married to Robert D. Scott. Geraldine (Jerry) and Robert had four children, Jane Lynn Scott who died in infancy, Steven Dale, Greg Robert and Kirk Leon.

Alma Jeanne Rehmer was born September 7, 1923, and grew up in the Big Sandy and Liberal Hill communities where she went to school and graduated from the Yates Center High School in 1941. Alma went to Wichita to work where she met and married Leon Smith, in April 1950. Alma Jeanne moved back to Yates Center in January 1976, after a divorce, and went to work for the Woodson County Sheriff's office as a dispatcher, a position she still holds. They had two children, Diane Kay and Larry Leon.

Harriet Rehmer was born, September 25, 1925, in the Big Sandy Community and attended the Big Sandy and Liberal Hill schools, and graduated from the Yates Center High School with the class of 1943. After graduation, Harriet went to Wichita where she worked for 3½ years at the Federal Land Bank. On June 3, 1946, she was married to Richard Scott. Richard had returned from the European Theatre of War in December 1945. Incidentally, Richard was a brother to Robert who married Geraldine. Richard was called back to service for the Korean Conflict in October, 1950. And at that time Harriet moved back to Yates Center, where she stayed until Richard returned from service. Harriet and Richard had three children, Gary Richard, Kent Wayne, and Synda Sue. Richard passed away June 16, 1973 with a heart attack. Harriet has been employed in the Woodson County Court House since 1961, and has worked for Register of Deeds, County Superintendent, and as Deputy Treasurer. She has been County Treasurer since 1977, a position she now holds.



**Grandmother Elizabeth "Libby" and her Grandson Kenneth Rehmer in his World War II uniform.**

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#### **Odds and Ends —**

Machinery and material for the sewer is being shipped in this week and probably the actual work on the ditches will start Monday. (February, 1913). The big ditcher has arrived and has been attracting considerable attention since it was unloaded. This machine does the work of several men and will easily excavate rock to a certain depth, as well as dirt. If you were on hand Monday near the Santa Fe depot you would have been able to see this ditcher throw the first wagon load of dirt for Yates Center's new sewer.

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Woodson County Advocate - January, 1913.

E.S. Glover who has recently finished and delivered the bird's-eye view of Yates Center, left for Tulsa, Oklahoma, Tuesday morning where he will make a view of that city. The Yates Center people were very well pleased with the view of the County Seat.

## THE OLD STONE QUARRY —

What was at one time known as the "Wall Quarry" was a very busy place. Years after the quarry was abandoned and filled up with water, it was a favorite swimming place.

Taken from the WOODSON COUNTY ADVOCATE, YATES CENTER, August 11, 1905. \$1.00 per year.

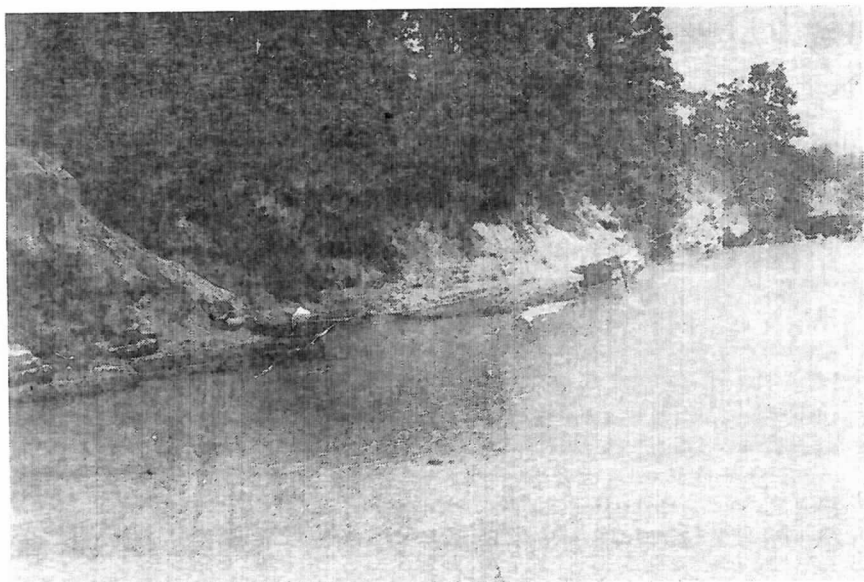
(121 good oil and gas wells in Woodson County. And the smallest per cent of dusters of any field in the world. Quite a few wells are being drilled in eastern part of the county.)

We have all kinds of rock for sale. Will put in foundations, sidewalks, in fact everything in the stone work line.

Cramer and Wall. Phone No. 151.

"Cuban Tag Cigars" manufactured by A. Hilsenohoff, Yates Center. A good 5 cent cigar.

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The old abandoned rock quarry above was an active place when it was owned by Thomas Wall. Another ad in the Advocate was by Wall. "ROCK" - I have for sale a good supply of rock of all kinds. See me when in need of rock for sidewalks, buildings. We can supply you at all times.

Thomas Wall.

The picture shows the abandoned rock quarry as it is today. The picture was taken and sent to me in the summer of 1975, by Duncan Wall, a son to Thomas. Duncan and his son Andrew spent some time at the Harding home. Duncan is the only one of the Wall family living that lived in Yates Center once.

On the back of the picture he wrote - The abandoned Wall quarry at Yates Center, Kansas, which was the town boys Swimming Hole. The scene shows deep water end. Little kids swam at extreme right "Little End", which was shallow. The water was spring-fed, clear and cold.

There were two diving boards. One about five feet above the water, and south of that one was the high one. That one seemed about 15 or 20 feet above water.

The last time that this editor went off the high board was in 1932, when my brother Arthur Harding, had charge of the quarry. A diving board shows in the picture near the water. Where the high board was to the south is all grown up in weeds, brush and trees of all sizes and kinds.

Duncan Wall who lives at Tacoma Park, Maryland, is a member of the Woodson County Historical Society, and is a regular subscriber to "IN THE BEGINNING".

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WOODSON COUNTY POST - Neosho Falls - August 16, 1876.

A friendly game of baseball was played between the Pioneers of Cherry Creek, and the Blackhawks of Neosho Falls on Pioneer grounds. The feature of the game was a double play by the Blackhawks, and a splendid catch of a fly ball by a Pioneer player. The game by innings.

Pioneers	2-0- 1-9-0-1-3-0-4 = 20
Blackhawks	3-12-3-5-7-3-1-3-8 = 45

The Blackhawks had one out to make in the last inning when night closed the game.

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January 2, 1877 —

Road to be laid out, commencing at southwest corner, Sec. 14, 24-14, thence north on section line to intersect the State road leading from Burlington to Toronto (2 miles). Men named to view and layout said road were: W.B. Butler, J.M. Strudivan and N.S. Chambers, and were to meet at residence of W.B. Stines, Justice of Peace, on February 2, 1877.



**Different Views Main St., Neosho Falls, 1900**



**Main Street in Neosho Falls, Kansas, about 1900**  
(Note hitching posts in front of stores)

## NEOSHO FALLS BUSINESS DIRECTORY OF 1882 - 83. —

Neosho Falls, population 750, on the Neosho River, a splendid water power stream at this point, sixteen miles northeast of Yates Center, 76 miles from Topeka and 101 miles from Kansas City. Four churches, Methodist, Universalist, Presbyterian, and Congregational. Good public schools, a hotel, woolen, saw and flour mills, weekly newspaper, The Woodson County Post. Magnificent fair grounds here. Improved land \$15 to \$25 per acre. Unimproved \$5 to \$10.

Stage daily to Colony, 12 miles and to Yates Center, fare \$1.00 to each place. Telegraph, Western Union, Express Pacific and Adams.

Mail daily, Richard P. Hamm, Postmaster.

W.E. Abbey, Livery. - Mrs. J.W. Adams and Co. Hardware.

Henry F. Beal, Watchmaker, Jewelry, Police Magistrate and Justice.

John F. Beard. Livestock - John F. Bidwell, Grocer.

Joseph Bishop, General Store

S.A. Brown and Co., Lumber - Ebenezer Bunton, Blacksmith.

W. L. Chellis, Prop. Woodson County Post.

Clark & Co., (Timothy L. Clark) General Store.

Henry D. Dickson, Lawyer - John H. Duke, Barber.

James W. Dickson, Loan Agent.

Wm. Farall, Wagonmaker. - Wm. A. Fezler, Furniture Store.

David W. Finney, Hardware

Clark W. Goodrich, Livery and Adams Express Agent.

N.S. Goss, Ornithologist and Lawyer.

David Gwinn, Druggist. - Stephan Hamilton, Shoemaker.

Richard P. Hamm. Bookseller and Stationer.

Wm. J. Haughawout, Real Estate.

Rev. H.B. Haviland (Presbyterian).

Christian Henson, Blacksmith. - Bernard Himrod, Livestock.

Samuel H. Hogueland, Harness. - Frank R. Hubbard, Wagonmaker.

Robert Inge, Livestock. - John J. Jones, Physican.

Harrison Inness, Prop. Falls House.

Rev. J.L. Longton (Methodist). - Samuel Mitchner, Meat Market.

Philip H. Moore, Loan Agent.

Wm. L. Parsons, Neosho Falls Water Mills, Mfg. Flour and Lumber,  
Manufacturer "Hearts Content" flour, Bills of lumber cut to order.

Mrs. M.A. Pierce. Hotel Prop. (Pierce House).

Thomas W. Read, Baker - Horace G. Slavens, Physican.

Wm. W. Sain, Grocer and Hardware.

W.F. Sharp. Woolen Mills. Neosho Valley Woolen Mills, Mrf. of jeans, wool, shirtings, flannels and yarns in all colors and dealer in wool. - Jabez H. Small., ax handle maker.

Albert Solander, Blacksmith, - Staley ..... Livestock.

A.T. Wolford, Blacksmith - John H. Strickert, Baker.



## **PATRONS OF WOODSON COUNTY HISTORICAL QUARTERLY**

Milton & Virginia Schornick  
Kenneth & Barbara Stockebrand  
John V. Glades Agency  
Street Abstract Co., Inc.  
State Exchange Bank  
Self Service Grocery  
Steiner's Sundries  
Piqua Farmer's Co-op  
Morton Equipment Co.  
Swope & Son Implement Co.  
Superior Bldg. & Supply, Inc.  
The Herring Families  
Cantrell Hay Co.,  
    Craig Cantrell  
Helene Schnell  
Wilma Mark  
Yates Center News  
Pringle Ranch -  
    J. Richard Pringle  
Atkin Rexall Pharmacy  
Campbell Funeral Home  
Glen & Zola Baker  
Piqua State Bank

Lynn and Gail Cantrell  
Gaulding Oil Co.  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ward  
Clyde Hill  
Kimbell Ranch-Ed. Kimbell  
Hi-Way Food Basket  
Jaspers Shopping Spot  
Daly Western Supply  
Linde Barber Shop  
Campbell Plg. & Electric  
Ted Spencer-Gen. Agent  
Woodson Co. Farm Bureau  
Jaynes Insurance Agency  
Glenn Shaw  
C.L. "Matty" & Luriel Mathews  
Milton & Marcella Wrampe  
Loren & Rita Cantrell  
Al's Jewelry  
Thomas Wilson  
Bill Herman  
Abbott & Ethel Crandall  
Lawrence M &  
    Alice Catherin Smith